



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 514

February Session, 2016

Substitute Senate Bill No. 356

Senate, April 6, 2016

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ATHLETIC TRAINERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-65f of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) "Athletic training" means the application or provision, with the
5 consent and under the direction of a health care provider, of (A)
6 principles, methods and procedures of clinical evaluation and
7 assessment, prevention, treatment, management, emergency care,
8 disposition and rehabilitation of athletic injuries, including, but not
9 limited to, acute and chronic injuries, sustained by [athletes] physically
10 active individuals, (B) appropriate preventative and supportive
11 devices, temporary splinting, [and] bracing and casting, physical
12 modalities of heat, cold, light massage, water, including, but not
13 limited to, aquatic therapy, electric stimulation, sound, exercise, [and]
14 exercise equipment and other agents prescribed by a health care

15 provider, (C) recognition of potential illness and referrals to a health
16 care provider for diagnosis and treatment, (D) wellness care services
17 developed for asymptomatic individuals, (E) the organization and
18 administration of athletic training programs, and [(D)] (F) education
19 and counseling to [athletes] physically active individuals, coaches,
20 medical personnel and [athletic communities] the community in the
21 area of the prevention and care of athletic injuries. For purposes of this
22 subdivision, "health care provider" means a person licensed to practice
23 medicine or surgery under chapter 370, chiropractic under chapter 372,
24 podiatry under chapter 375 or naturopathy under chapter 373;

25 (2) "Athletic injury" means any injury sustained by [an athlete] a
26 physically active individual as a result of such [athlete's] individual's
27 participation in exercises, sports, games or [recreation] recreational
28 activities requiring strength, agility, flexibility, range of motion, speed
29 or stamina, or any comparable injury that prevents such [athlete]
30 individual from participating in any such activities;

31 (3) ["Athlete"] "Physically active individual" means any person who
32 is a member of any professional, amateur, school or other sports team,
33 or is a regular participant in sports or recreational activities, including,
34 but not limited to, training and practice activities, that require strength,
35 agility, flexibility, range of motion, speed or stamina. For purposes of
36 this subdivision, "regular" means not less than three times per week;

37 (4) "Standing orders" means written protocols, recommendations
38 and guidelines for treatment and care, furnished and signed by a
39 health care provider specified under subdivision (1) of this section, to
40 be followed in the practice of athletic training that may include, but
41 not be limited to, (A) appropriate treatments for specific athletic
42 injuries, (B) athletic injuries or other conditions requiring immediate
43 referral to a licensed health care provider, and (C) appropriate
44 conditions for the immediate referral to a licensed health care provider
45 of injured [athletes] physically active individuals of a specified age or
46 age group;

47 (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health.

48 Sec. 2. Section 20-65h of the general statutes is repealed and the
49 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

50 (a) Each person who practices athletic training under standing
51 orders shall make a written or oral referral to a licensed health care
52 provider of any [athlete] physically active individual who has an
53 athletic injury whose symptoms have not improved for a period of
54 four days from the day of onset, or who has any physical or medical
55 condition that would constitute a medical contraindication for athletic
56 training or that may require evaluation or treatment beyond the scope
57 of athletic training. The injuries or conditions requiring a referral
58 under this subsection shall include, but not be limited to, suspected
59 medical emergencies or illnesses, physical or mental illness and
60 significant tissue or neurological pathologies.

61 (b) Each person who practices athletic training, but not
62 understanding orders, may perform initial evaluation and temporary
63 splinting and bracing of any [athlete] physically active individual with
64 an athletic injury and shall, without delay, make a written or oral
65 referral of such [athlete] individual to a licensed health care provider.
66 The limitations on the practice of athletic training set forth in this
67 subsection shall not apply in the case of any [athlete] physically active
68 individual that is referred to such person by a licensed health care
69 provider, provided such practice shall be limited to the scope of such
70 referral.

71 Sec. 3. Section 20-65i of the general statutes is repealed and the
72 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

73 A license to practice athletic training shall not be required of: (1) A
74 practitioner who is licensed or certified by a state agency and is
75 performing services within the scope of practice for which such person
76 is licensed or certified; (2) a student intern or trainee pursuing a course
77 of study in athletic training, provided the activities of such student
78 intern or trainee are performed under the supervision of a person
79 licensed to practice athletic training and the student intern or trainee is
80 given the title of "athletic trainer intern", or similar designation; (3) a

81 person employed or volunteering as a coach of amateur sports who
82 provides first aid for athletic injuries to [athletes] physically active
83 individuals being coached by such person; (4) a person who furnishes
84 assistance in an emergency; or (5) a person who acts as an athletic
85 trainer in this state for less than thirty days per calendar year and who
86 is licensed as an athletic trainer by another state or is certified by the
87 Board of Certification, Inc., or its successor organization.

88 Sec. 4. Section 20-65j of the general statutes is repealed and the
89 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

90 (a) Except as provided in [subsections (b) and (c)] subsection (b) of
91 this section, an applicant for a license to practice athletic training shall
92 have: (1) A baccalaureate or graduate degree from a regionally
93 accredited institution of higher education, or from an institution of
94 higher [learning] education located outside of the United States that is
95 legally chartered to grant postsecondary degrees in the country in
96 which such institution is located; and (2) current certification as an
97 athletic trainer by the Board of Certification, Inc., or its successor
98 organization.

99 (b) An applicant for licensure to practice athletic training by
100 endorsement shall present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner
101 (1) of licensure or certification as an athletic trainer, or as a person
102 entitled to perform similar services under a different designation, in
103 another state having requirements for practicing in such capacity that
104 are substantially similar to or higher than the requirements in force in
105 this state, and (2) that there is no disciplinary action or unresolved
106 complaint pending against such applicant.

107 [(c) Prior to April 30, 2007, the commissioner shall grant a license as
108 an athletic trainer to any applicant who presents evidence satisfactory
109 to the commissioner of (1) the continuous providing of services as an
110 athletic trainer since October 1, 1979, or (2) certification as an athletic
111 trainer by the Board of Certification, Inc., or its successor organization.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	20-65f
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	20-65h
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	20-65i
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	20-65j

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(2), "prevents such athlete" was changed to "prevents such [athlete] individual" for consistency with the definitional change in Section 1(3).

PH *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill does not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Public Health as it is not anticipated to alter the number of athletic trainers licensed by the agency or associated regulatory activities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 356*****AN ACT CONCERNING ATHLETIC TRAINERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands and updates the scope of practice for athletic trainers by adding to the definition of “athletic training” in the athletic trainer licensing statutes.

It renames the term for athletic trainers’ clients as “physically active individuals” rather than “athletes,” without changing the definition (generally, members of sports teams or other individuals who regularly participate in sports or recreational activities).

It also makes other minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

ATHLETIC TRAINING

By law, athletic training is defined as the application or provision of specified services with the consent and under the direction of a health care provider (i.e., a physician, chiropractor, podiatrist, or naturopath). The bill adds the following to the list of permissible services:

1. casting (the law already allows temporary splinting and bracing),
2. recognition of potential illness and referrals to a health care provider for diagnosis and treatment, and
3. wellness care services for asymptomatic individuals.

Under current law, athletic training includes the principles, methods, and procedures of evaluating, preventing, treating, and

rehabilitating athletic injuries. The bill (1) specifies that this includes clinical evaluation; (2) adds to the definition the assessment, management, emergency care, and disposition of such injuries; and (3) specifies that the injuries may be acute or chronic.

Current law allows athletic trainers to use water as a physical modality of treatment. The bill specifies that this includes aquatic therapy.

The bill allows athletic trainers to use other agents prescribed by a health care provider, beyond those specifically listed in the law. It also specifies that they may offer education and counseling to the community at large, not just athletic communities, on the prevention and care of athletic injuries.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 9 (03/21/2016)